



Trek for the Trails Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I be a part of Washington National Park Fund's (WNPF's) Trek for the Trails program rather than going directly through a trekking company?

When you sign up to be a part of the WNPF's Trek for the Trails program, not only do you get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to trek through a beautiful and iconic part of Olympic National Park, but you also get to give back to Olympic National Park's trails which need your support! The funds raised that are raised through Trek for the Trails support the parks' more than 600 miles of sprawling trails. Trek for the Trails is a great way to have an unforgettable experience with other like-minded trekkers while making a major impact on Olympic National Park.

I'm interested in participating in Trek for the Trails, but I've never backpacked before. Is previous experience required?

No! Previous experience is not required; however, Wildland Trekking does highly recommend that you get ready for your trip by being physically fit enough to have the time of your life. When it comes to training, Wildland Trekking's mantra is "the more physical prepared you are, the more fun you'll have." We recommend reviewing the guide company's website to better understand what is to be expected on the trek: [Wildland Trekking](#).

I want to sign up for Trek for a Trails! What are the next steps?

Contact Kristen Oliphant (kristen@wnpf.org) with the specific trek and date you're interested in. You will then complete and sign your Trek for the Trails Participant Agreement Form and email that back to Kristen along with payment of your non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 (credit cards accepted). You will also be required to set up your

fundraising page on JustGiving. Once those steps are completed, you'll receive confirmation that your trekking spot is secured along with exciting information to help you get started on fundraising for your trek, and to help you begin preparing for the trek itself!

What is the fundraising commitment for the trek?

This year, the trekkers are responsible for the following fundraising commitments:

- Enchanted Valley (Olympic National Park): \$1,900.00

What are the ways my supporters can donate to support my trek?

Washington's National Park Fund uses the peer-to-peer fundraising platform JustGiving – there, you will create a fundraising page that will allow you to track your progress towards reaching your fundraising goal. Gifts by credit or debit card can be made for your trek directly through the JustGiving page.

If your supporter prefers to support your trek with a gift by check, of cash or stock, or via PayPal or Venmo, please contact Kristen Oliphant at kristen@wnpf.org.

What happens if I am unable to secure the full fundraising total?

Per the Trek for the Trails Participant Agreement, each participant agrees to fundraise or personally be responsible for "X" Fundraising Commitment ("Fundraising Total"). **If the participant is unable to secure the full fundraising total by the fundraising total deadline date (two weeks prior to trek start date), then they will be personally responsible for any remaining fundraising difference.** Any fundraising difference will be charged to the credit card provided the week before the trek start date. *Notification will be sent in advance to confirm the date this payment will be processed.*

What is the cancellation policy?

If a participant wants to cancel their participation before the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline (three months prior to the trek start date), they must notify WNPF by email. WNPF will process cancellation notices received before the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline, and **the participant will be responsible for half of the fundraising total.** They will not be

responsible for the full fundraising total. If a participant chooses to cancel their participation after the Midpoint Fundraising Deadline, **they must raise the full fundraising total, or the remaining fundraising difference will be charged to their credit card on file.** This is due two (2) weeks prior to the trek start date.

If I donate to my trek fundraising page, is it tax deductible?

Only the amount an individual donates to their trek **above the value of the trek** is considered tax deductible.

For example, if the trekker commits to a fundraising minimum of \$1,900 for a trek that is valued at \$825 and then that trekker donates the full amount to their fundraising page and hits the trek minimum, **only the difference of \$1,075 would be tax-deductible.**

If someone's fundraising page raises an amount equal to the value of the trek, then any gifts the trekker made/makes towards the fundraising minimum would be considered tax-deductible.

Please consult your tax advisor for more details about your specific tax liability. If you have questions about your giving or would like a record of your giving history to share with your advisor, please contact office@wnpf.org.

Someone gave me a cash gift. How do I add an offline donation to my fundraising page?

All offline donations must be submitted to WNPF for verification and approval before adding them to your fundraising page. Once WNPF has approved you to add the offline donation, follow these steps:

1. Log into your JustGiving account, then click on your name/icon in the top right corner and select **'Profile'**
2. Click **'Edit'** on the page you'd like to add the balance to from your Profile area
3. Click **'Donations'** along the top of the page
4. Enter in the amount box the total amount raised offline (\$X) and select **'Save offline donations'**

If a coworker donates to my trekking page, I'm assuming my employer/company will match their donation. Does that match count towards my fundraising goal, and can I add that to my fundraising page?

Yes, donations in support of your trek that are matched by corporations do count towards your fundraising goal. You'll have to check with your employer/company to see if they offer a match program. If so, then the individual who made the donation to your fundraising page will also have to initiate the match. After they've done that, have them forward the confirmation/approval of the match to Kristen Oliphant (kristen@wnpf.org) She will then approve you to add that amount as an *offline donation* to your fundraising page.

Does JustGiving send out a tax receipt when friends and family donate to my fundraising page?

Yes, JustGiving sends this out as soon as the donation is made.

Can I contribute to my trek by directing a gift from my Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? Can my supporters?

Donors cannot receive a personal benefit from DAF grantmaking, so directing a gift from your personal DAF to cover your trek fundraising commitment is **not permitted**. Your supporters*, however, are able to advise a gift to WNPf in support of your trek. Please notify Kristen Oliphant (kristen@wnpf.org) if you know of a supporter who intends to donate to your trek via a DAF so we can watch for the gift. Once received, Kristen will notify you so you can add the amount as an offline gift on your fundraising page and thank your supporter. (*Supporters cannot be related to you)

What are some fundraising strategies you recommend?

Create a clear, compelling **Call-to-Action (CTA)** by combining a *belief* statement + *you* statement + *opportunity* statement. For example:

- **Belief statement:** I believe what makes Olympic National Park so beautiful is the magnificent 600 miles in the park!

- **You statement:** You can help support trail work on some of Olympic National Park's more than 600 miles of sprawling trails by donating to my fundraising page!
- **Opportunity statement:** *"Will you help me reach my goal of raising \$1,900 that will go to support trail work in Olympic National Park?"*

Get creative. Contests and challenges are a fun way to gamify giving within your network. Tell your team you'll do something fun/weird/exciting when you reach your goal, hike a mile for every \$100 raised, or bake brownies for a randomly selected supporter of your fundraiser. There are so many fun ways to get your friends and family engaged!

- *Example:* a climber that participated in a fundraising climb last year brought a can of Rainier beer on her training hike up to Mailbox Peak and left it in the mailbox. On the beer she taped a piece of paper that talked about her fundraising efforts which included the link to her fundraising page. A stranger ended up donating \$100 to her fundraising page!

Get social. Check out WNPf's social channels to get inspiration for posts and hashtags. Use our hashtag, **#ForYourParks**, and tag our handle for a chance to be featured. Consider putting your fundraising page link in your bio and reference it in your posts. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

What hiking boots do you recommend? Do we really need to bring everything on the gear list?

These are great questions! Please contact your guide company: Wildland Trekking (1-800-715-HIKE (4453).